

Appl. No. 10/788,577
Amdt. Dated Nov. 9, 2005
Reply to Office Action of August 9, 2005

REMARKS

Amendments to Specification

Applicant has carefully checked the specification and amended the minor errors and irregularities in the specification.

Amendments to Claims

Claims 7-12 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1-6 and 13 remain pending in the application.

Claim Objections

Claims 8-12 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claims 8-12 recite a preamble of "the liquid crystal display" while the based claim 7 recites a backlight module.

In response to the objections, claims 8-12 have been canceled without prejudice, and the objections relating thereto are now moot.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 7-9 and 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nakamaru et al., JP 2001-281654.

In response to this rejection, claims 7-9 and 11-12 have been canceled without prejudice, and the rejections relating thereto are now moot.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1-6, 10 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

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unpatentable over Nakamaru et al., JP 2001-281654, in view of Iijima US Patent No. 6,906,767.

In response to the rejection, Applicant hereby traverses this rejection and submits that claims 1-6, and 13 are allowable over Nakamaru et al. in view of Iijima et al.

Claim 1, as originally filed, recites in part:

a backlight module having a light source, a light guide plate, a reflector, and a quarter-wave plate, . . . ; and

a liquid crystal panel having a reflective polarizing element, the liquid crystal panel is located on the backlight module, and the reflective polarizing element faces a top surface of the light guide plate.

Nakamaru et al. actually disclose a backlight module for an LCD element. As shown in figure 1, the backlight module has a light source 104, a light guide plate 101, a reflector 106 and a quarter-wave plate 109. A plurality of fine projecting and recessing parts 102 is formed on a light-emitting surface of the light guide plate 101. From the page of "PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN" of JP 2001-281654, we can see that the projecting and recessing parts 102 have a polarized light separation function. That is, the projecting and recessing parts 102 function as the polarization division plate 108 of figure 8.

Further, at column 12, line 3, of JP 2001-281654, Nakamaru et al. discloses that figure 8 is a view of a conventional LCD element (the phrase of "従来型" signifies "conventional"). What shown in that figure actually is a prior art backlight module, as disclosed by Nakamaru et al. As shown in

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figure 8, the polarization division plate 108 is used for transmitting P-polarized light, and reflecting S-polarized light. As such, the polarization division plate 108 is the essentially same as the reflective polarizing plate 40 disclosed by Iijima.

However, Nakamura et al. discloses the use of the fine projecting and recessing parts 102 on the light-emitting surface of the light guide plate 101 for the purpose of a reflective light polarizer, in the inventive embodiment, negating the need for a further such polarizer element. Also, none of the prior art embodiments disclose or suggest the use of a quarter-wave plate, and Nakamura et al., as a whole, teaches away from the use of the prior art embodiments. Thus, no embodiment of Nakamura et al. discloses or suggests using a quarter-wave plate, a light guide plate, and a reflective light polarizer together. Therefore, Nakamura et al. fails to teach or suggest the present liquid crystal display, as set forth in claim 1, as originally filed.

Additionally, Iijima et al. is relied upon by the Examiner as a teaching of an LCD device with a diffuser 30, reflective polarizing plate 40, and a backlight module 70, 80. However, in the case of the inventive embodiment of Nakamura et al., it would not have been obvious to modify that embodiment to provide a reflective polarizing plate since that function is already performed by the fine projecting and recessing parts 102 on the light-emitting surface of the light guide plate 101. Further, the prior art embodiment of Nakamura et al., even upon being modified by Iijima et al. would still not disclose or suggest the use of a quarter-wave plate in conjunction with the other elements required by claim 1. Thus, the Nakamura et al. in view of Iijima et al. fails to teach or suggest the present liquid crystal display, as set forth in claim 1.

Accordingly, claim 1 is submitted to be unobvious and patentable over

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Nakamaru et al. in view of Iijima. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-6 directly or indirectly depend from independent claim 1, and therefore should also be allowable.

Claim 10 has been canceled without prejudice, and the rejection relating thereto is now moot.

Applicant submits that claim 13 recites limitations similar to those of claim 1. For reasons similar to those asserted above in relation to the patentability of claim 1 over Nakamaru et al. in view of Iijima under 35 U.S.C. 103, Applicant submits that claim 13 is also in condition for allowance over the cited references.

In view of the foregoing, the present application as claimed in the pending claims is considered to be in a condition for allowance, and an action to such effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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